



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 20, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Michelle Jerde, Jahn Dyvik, and Tom Skjaret

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS - LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

The annual Corn Days summer festival was held August 10 and 11, and was a good event despite a rainy Saturday. Turnout for Sunday's Corn Days Parade was great – one of the better turnouts in several years. Mayor Miner and Council member Dyvik participated in the parade accompanying a Long Lake City Council float, the LLFD Studebaker, and handed out lots of candy. He noted that it was good to see the community out and about.

Prior to the Council meeting, the EDA met and reviewed the current results from the Community Input Survey seeking input on what the community would like to see for future use of City owned properties. Responses number in the low 80's so far, and Mayor Miner encouraged any meeting viewers to take a moment to log onto the City's website, click on the survey link at the top of the web page, and complete the survey if they haven't already done so. The EDA also heard a proposal from a developer interested in development the Virginia Avenue property and potentially the adjacent homes for a 110-unit assisted living and memory care project. At this point the interested developer was seeking EDA feedback and guidance, no formal action was under consideration by the EDA.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Jerde, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of August 7, 2019 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of August 7, 2019 City Council Meeting
- C. Receive Minutes of July 23, 2019 Economic Development Authority Meeting
- D. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- E. Motion to Authorize Change Order No. 1 to Hoffman & McNamara Co. for the Wayzata Boulevard (CSAH 112) Phase 1 – Landscape Project in the Amount of \$0.00

- F. Motion to Authorize Pay Request #2 to Hoffman & McNamara Co. in the Amount of \$5,883.35 for the Wayzata Boulevard (CSAH 112) Phase 1 – Landscape Project

*A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

Regarding Consent Agenda Item F, Council member Dyvik sought clarification that contractor Hoffman & McNamara had not yet been paid their full contract amount. Administrator Weske confirmed this was correct, a percentage will be held for retainage for a two year period, and pay requests are getting close to the City paying almost to the retainage amount which will remain to be withheld.

*Ayes: all.*

### **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Planning Case #2019-12 / Request for a Conditional Use Permit and the Alteration of a Non-Conforming Sign to Allow for Electronic Changeable Copy Signage on Property at 1865 Wayzata Boulevard W (Spectrum Sign Systems, Inc. / Long Lake Town Center LLC)**

Kurt Bearinger, substitute Planning Consultant from WSB, reviewed the location of the existing sign proposed to be updated at the Long Lake Town Center plaza, located in the B-2 General Business zoning district. Bearinger explained that the applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow replacement of a channel letterboard cabinet with a smaller cabinet and changeable electronic copy component; as well as an alteration of a non-conforming use to permit alterations to an existing non-conforming monument style sign.

City Clerk Moeller added that with the changes proposed, the sign would remain under the 15 foot maximum height limit for monument signs.

Bearinger reported that the Planning Commission had reviewed the application at their August 13 meeting and recommended approval by a vote of 3-0. Commission member Adams had abstained from voting due to being related to the property owner.

A representative (Eric) from Spectrum Signs clarified that the existing brick base of the sign would be covered by an aluminum paneling system with a stucco finish to match accents on the Town Center building. He explained that the messages on the electronic copy board would be controlled via wireless communication that allows up to five administrators to control the sign. The technology allows for messages to be changed from a cell phone as well.

Mayor Miner summarized that although the sign would grow in height mainly because of the fence adjacent to the sign installed during to Wayzata Boulevard W road reconstruction project, ultimately the square footage of the sign changes proposed would actually reduce the cabinet size.

Council member Kvale pointed out there is another sign on the property that is substantially taller.

Moeller explained that all the signs on the property really are non-conforming signs – the two monument style signs at the east and west ends do not fully conform to current monument sign design standards, and with freestanding pylon signs no longer allowed in the zoning districts fronting Wayzata Boulevard W, the freestanding pylon sign at the corner is also non-conforming. She noted that it was nice to have a process in place to allow for alteration of non-conforming signs

to a certain degree, as the investment to update all the signage on the property to current sign standards would be significant.

Council member Dyvik noted that he would be abstaining from voting, as his wife owns a business located in the Town Center plaza.

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to adopt Resolution No. 2019-35 approving the request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow electronic changeable copy and the alteration of a non-conforming use (sign) on the property located at 1865 West Wayzata Boulevard. Ayes: Kvale, Jerde, Miner, Skjaret. Abstained: Dyvik. Motion carried.*

### **Authorize Purchase of Fire Department Door Access System**

Fire Chief Van Eyll advised that the current fire service contract has a provision to allow for a process to address unforeseeable expenditures. He explained that the door code system for Station 2 is down and no longer allows entering new door codes into the system. It also has been removing some of the existing codes previously programmed. The Department looked at options for fixing and for repairing the standalone system at Station 2; however, it is difficult to obtain parts to repair the 15 year old system, and the software is obsolete. The Department is seeking authorization to update to a global cloud-based system for both stations, and the solution proposed would allow for the same wiring in place to be used. The cloud-based access system would allow for entry via a key fob, four digit code, or using an app on a smartphone.

Council member Kvale questioned whether Orono and Medina had been asked about the proposed expense yet, and what the consequences would be should they deny the request.

Van Eyll confirmed that a memorandum had been sent to both communities, and it has already been placed on Orono's upcoming meeting agenda. The contract wording allows for both communities to have a 21 day period to voice either a "yes" or a "no" to the request, and if no reply is received, the purchase can be made. If a denial were to be received, the purchase would either wait until it is confirmed it can be made in budget, or purchasing the upgrade for only Station 2 could be possible if it is able to be done within budget. He noted that at a recent Fire Advisory Subcommittee meeting, discussion at the meeting suggested moving forward with considering the purchase now rather than waiting for 2020 budgets. From indications thus far, Van Eyll is anticipating Orono would be authorizing the expense. Van Eyll added that the Department would be working to keep expenditures down for the remainder of the budget year.

*A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Dyvik, to authorize purchase of the Door Access System for the Long Lake Fire Department per the quote provided by The Flying Locksmiths, dated May 29, 2019. Ayes: all.*

Van Eyll indicated he would keep Council posted regarding what the other contract cities decide.

### **Discuss Holding a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Style Ceremony for Completion of Wayzata Boulevard W (CSAH 112) Project, Phases 1 and 2**

Mayor Miner commented that the thought had crossed his mind before, but a resident had recently also brought up to him the idea of celebrating the completion of the Wayzata Boulevard W project. He observed that the community has been through a lot related to the project over the last few years, and project completion may be a reason to celebrate with a brief ribbon cutting style ceremony potentially at the monument sign at the corner of Brown Road N. Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison, project staff from Hennepin County, members of the CR 112 Landscaping Subcommittee, City staff including all of Public Works, and the public could be invited

and cake could be provided. He had pitched the idea to Administrator Weske, and staff suggested putting this as a discussion item on the agenda for consideration and potentially to select a date.

Council members voiced their support for the idea.

Council member Kvale suggested that as there is limited room at the monument sign, perhaps the Pioneer Museum would allow use of their property for a gathering.

Mayor Miner suggested selecting a date prior to a regular Council meeting, with the celebration to be held in lieu of a work session.

City Clerk Moeller added that with preliminary levy adoption taking place at the second meeting in September, the work session prior to the first meeting in October – Tuesday, October 1 – would likely be able to be cancelled for a ceremony to be held instead. She confirmed she could contact the Pioneer Museum to seek their permission for a gathering to be held on their lawn.

Mayor Miner encouraged staff to send out invites thinking “the more, the merrier” as the community celebrates getting around town without cones and barrels.

#### **Wayzata Boulevard W Construction and Landscaping Project Updates**

Weske reported that salt tolerant sod had been laid in the Phase 2 area to the Luce Line bridge. The contractor is continuing to finish punch list items and will be removing their construction trailer from the City property behind the golf dome on the coming Friday. He also added that in review of the amounts paid thus far to Hoffman & McNamara for the Phase 1 landscaping project, pay vouchers had amounted to about \$80,000 of the total project contract amount of \$113,000, so there remains a significant amount yet to be paid.

Council member Dyvik shared his disappointment that a number of trees were looking poorly. Some had been removed already for replacement. He questioned whether the water bags could have been removed earlier. Weske indicated he and Diercks had discussed the condition of trees with the City Engineer during a meeting on Monday and WSB will be following up with the contractor on that as part of their oversight responsibilities. He had received an email confirming that some of the trees had actually gone dormant. Weske confirmed that dead trees are required to be replaced, and indicated he expected the contractor will likely submit another pay voucher at some point, with retainage to remain withheld to assure tree replacements are made.

Mayor Miner stated a resident had emailed himself and Council member Dyvik regarding weeds around the monument sign on the east side of town. Weske reported that Public Works had gone out and weeded/worked on the monument sign landscaping and will continue to monitor it. Though the project contractor is responsible for weed control for the installation, they are assigning blame for the weed situation upon the seed mix the City requested. Public Works Director Diercks will continue to monitor and be in contact regarding the situation moving forward. Council member Dyvik recalled there had been some interest by a resident in establishing a garden club to help maintain these types of sites. Council member Kvale questioned whether the Park Board would be a good candidate to oversee establishment of a garden club, and Moeller confirmed she believed it would be a good fit for the board. Council supported directing the Park Board to work on the matter.

Mayor Miner noted that there remains a supply of cones located at the eastern end of the project area which should be picked up. Weske confirmed that Public Works Director Diercks has been in communication with the contractor, and he would discuss the remaining cones with Diercks the following day.

Council member Skjaret commented that as the fall season approaches, it would be timely to remove any drain covers that were in place for silt and dirt control during construction in order for catch basins to be utilized. Weske would expect that to occur promptly now that the sod has been installed.

Council member Skjaret asked whether the pedestrian crossing at Heather Lane will be painted. Weske explained that the design of the pedestrian crossing did not meet the County's crossing use threshold standards to require painting.

Council member Dyvik shared his observations and concerns about the speed limit signage and speed zones installed, particularly referencing an area in the east end of the corridor where the speed limit differs for eastbound versus westbound traffic within a road section. Mayor Miner had spoken with Police Chief Risvold about the matter and Chief Risvold had also shared his confusion regarding the differing speed zones in the same road section. Council was in agreement that it would be preferred if the speed limit within that differing zone were 40 mph, rather than 40 mph in one direction and 45 mph in the other. Council member Dyvik also noted he did not understand why the speed advisory sign is not currently working. Moeller confirmed staff has been receiving a lot of calls about speed of traffic and speed limit signage. Staff is forwarding County project contact information to any who are seeking clarification.

Council member Dyvik displayed a photo of a pedestrian crossing sign that had been placed in the middle of the road on Highway 12, a state highway, in Maple Plain. He indicated he remains a strong advocate for Long Lake placing signs in the crossings for Wurzer Trail, at Heather Lane, and at Lake Street. Council members discussed considering placing signs once project construction traffic is no longer a continued presence, with the turnback fund to be a potential funding source for the purchase of a few signs to start.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Park Board Liaison** – Council member Jerde reported that the Park Board had met and is considering sites to recommend for establishment of an archery range. The Board will be inviting local Boy Scout troops and donations to assist in setting up the range once a site is identified.

**Update on Fire at Chunk's Auto** – Fire Chief Van Eyll provided a detailed review of response to and timeline of the fire that occurred on Saturday, August 17 at Chunk's Auto located on Daniels Street. He indicated that the cause of the fire is still under investigation however no foul play is suspected. The Hennepin County fire investigation team is working on their report at this time. Fire Chief Van Eyll had met with the property owner after the fire and showed him footage taken by the command vehicle camera which documented response and provided a way to describe response activities step by step for the property owner's review. He had also met with the insurance company's lead investigation team and showed them the video as well. Fire Chief Van Eyll noted that responding crews did a fantastic job, and he could not say enough about Assistant Chief Goman's command at the site. He responded to Council member questions about how gasoline impacts firefighting on a scene, and confirmed that Chunk's is closed at this time. The owner of Chunk's has received offers from both Orono Police and from local property owners for temporary operating space in the interim.

**Swimming Beach Reopened for Use** – Mayor Miner thanked staff for putting out advisories that the swimming beach was able to be reopened. He noted it was great the County had given their authorization to reopen.

**Appreciation to Suzanne and Dick Caswell** – Council member Skjaret recognized residents Suzanne and Dick Caswell for the gardening work they've done in this year and past years at Hardin Park. Suzanne is a master gardener, and the gardens she's contributed and cared for have been beautiful as always. He conveyed the community's appreciation for the Caswells efforts, noting that Suzanne is also a member of the City's Park Board.

**Removal of Ongoing Agenda Business Item for Wayzata Boulevard W Updates** – With the Wayzata Boulevard W project now substantially complete through Long Lake, Moeller asked whether Council would be supportive of removing the "Wayzata Boulevard W Construction and Landscaping Project Updates" regular business item from future meeting agendas. Moeller recalled that the item was added to every agenda at prior direction from Council, therefore staff wanted to seek Council authorization before removing it. Mayor and Council were supportive of removing the "Wayzata Boulevard W Construction and Landscaping Project Updates" as a regular agenda business item for each meeting.

**ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:32 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller  
City Clerk